

May 2009
Sheridan Co. FSA Office
119 N. Jackson
Plentywood, MT 59254
406-765-1550, ext. 2

County Committee

Gordon French	Chairman
Kevin Wilson	Vice Chairman
Jody Lagerquist	Member
Ellen Sedgwick	Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Donna Hilyard	CED, ext. 102
Donelda Buckalew	PT, ext. 105
Karen Budd	PT, ext. 104
Kathy Gray	PT, ext. 100
Josie Johnson	PT, ext. 109
Marcia Rice	PT, ext. 112
Michael Sandoval	PT, ext. 110

Farm Loan personnel for Sheridan Co:

Pat Turner, Loan Manager
Bruce Johnson, Loan Officer
Lacy Roberts, Loan Officer
Patti McGinnis, Farm Loan Program
Technician
Contact them at Richland Co.,
406-433-2103, ext. 108

Dates to Remember.

****Pick up your map packets!**

NAP Notice of Loss – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent.

May 18 – Deadline to pay buy-in fee.

June 15 – County Committee nominations begin.

July 15 – Deadline to submit acreage reporting maps.

July 15 – Deadline to submit NAP production for 2008 crops.

July 16 – earliest day for CRP managed haying, **MUST** sign up first and receive approval!

Aug. 3 – COC nominations end

Aug. 14 – 2009 DCP Signup Deadline; ACRE signup deadline; pulse base election deadline.

On-going – report changes to the farming operation (land owned & operated, trust formation, etc.), & to bank accounts for direct deposit **2nd Wednesday every month** – County Committee meetings.

Sheridan County FSA News

Second Buy-in approved for some Disaster Programs

If you did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008, you can pay a buy-in fee to become eligible for the following 2008 disaster assistance programs:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program on crops and hay
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honey bees (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Producers who have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for 2008 SURE, ELAP, and TAP can complete the following steps by **May 18, 2009**:

- Pay a \$100 “buy-in” fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers. NOTE: Producers who meet the definition of “Socially Disadvantaged”, “Limited Resource”, or “Beginning Farmer or Rancher” are not required to pay the buy-in fee.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain an insurance policy for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70% or more of the yield at 100% of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the state application closing date for the next available year.

The deadline to purchase the buy-in fee is May 18, 2009.

NOTE: this does NOT apply to rangeland that would be used under LFP (Livestock Forage Disaster Program) – it’s only for crops to be used for the 3 programs listed above.

The 2008 “buy-in” fee is non-refundable and is due at the time the CCC-752 and/or CCC-753 is filed.

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Remember when you are deciding what you’re going to seed for 2009, if you do not have crop insurance or NAP on all crops and forages of “economic significance”, and you are going to seed one of those non-insured or non-NAP policy crops, you may jeopardize eligibility for disaster program (SURE) payments for 2009! All crops expected to contribute 5% or more to gross crop income are considered economically significant. You may have made that calculation before the March 16 insurance and NAP sales closing date, but weather conditions may affect your planting decisions! Remember that SURE covers all crops in all counties intended for mechanical harvest, including peas, barley, oats, and grain/legume mixtures for forage.

**2009 Acreage Reports**

Please stop by the FSA Office and pick up your map packets now. All acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of **July 15, 2009**. Please fill the maps out completely with a red pen (no pencil of any color on the maps) according to the informational sheets included in the map packet. Certification is mandatory if you want to receive benefits under the following programs: DCP; ACRE; CRP; if Loans or LDP's will be requested, including Wool, Mohair and Honey; NAP; SURE; LFP; ELAP.

It is very important to put down the normal intended use of the acres, considering normal weather. If you hay a field or some native grass acres in a normal precipitation year, but this year you are going to graze because it was dry, you need to put "forage", not "graze" as the intended use. This has a big impact on your eligibility for disaster programs!

Certification maps filed after July 15 will be considered late filed, and a fee equal to the measurement service fee will be charged on the crop(s) you want to report (minimum charge is \$46 per farm, plus an hourly rate to conduct the on-farm visit).

Failure to report acreage accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits. All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for benefits.

**Remember – it's very important for you to report the same acres, crops, intended uses, and shares to both FSA and crop insurance!**

**Prevented Planting final report date**

If you are unable to plant acres this spring due to a natural disaster, and you want to receive prevented planting credit at FSA, you must complete a notice of loss within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop. Final plant dates vary by crop from mid-May to mid-June. Please check with your crop insurance agent for the applicable final plant date, or check with FSA if you have a NAP crop that is prevented planted.

**Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)**

Signup for the DCP program will end August 14, 2009. All signatures to shares of the contract must be received by close of business that day. Advance direct payments of 22% can be requested, and final direct payments will be issued in October 2009. Producers on a farm with a total of 10 base acres or less are not eligible to receive payments on that farm unless the farm is wholly owned by a minority or limited resource farmer or rancher. Commodities covered by DCP include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, mustard, safflower, crambe, sesame seed, rapeseed and sunflowers. For the 2009 crop year, pulse crops including chickpeas (both Kabuli (large) and Desi (small) Garbanzo beans), dry peas, and lentils will be added as covered commodities, but will be eligible only for counter cyclical payments, not direct payments like the other commodities.

Note that no payments for 2009 can be issued until you have returned your completed payment eligibility and adjusted gross income forms, and appropriate determinations have been made by FSA.

**Committee Election Approaching**

Nominations can begin now for County Committee election! This year the LAA open in Sheridan County is Area 1 (Townships 36 and 37, generally north of Highway 5). Kevin Wilson currently represents LAA 1.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority, women, and beginning farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. The nominee must reside within the area they are nominated to represent.

Please remember that as a county committee member, you are the local voice of how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs.

**CRP Managed Haying and Grazing**

CRP participants are able to perform managed haying of CRP acreage the later of July 16<sup>th</sup> or when you receive written notification of approval. Managed haying is allowed **once every 5 years** on the same acreage. No more than 50% of a field or contiguous fields may be hayed in a year. The summer/fall grazing period is Aug. 2nd (changed from last year) through Sept. 30th. Managed grazing is allowed **once every 3 years** on the same acreage. There is a 25% payment reduction for each acre hayed or grazed. Please note – if your contract extension or re-enrollment was approved after 9/25/06, and the contract had never been signed up for haying or grazing, then haying and grazing can not begin until August 2, and is limited to 1 in 10 years for haying and 1 in 5 years for grazing.

To apply for managed haying or grazing, the CRP participant and livestock owner should come in together. You'll need to sign a modified conservation plan, identify the acreage to be hayed or grazed on an aerial photograph, sign the "Terms and Conditions for Managed Haying and Grazing" agreement, and receive written notification of approval before managed haying or grazing can begin.

**REPORT NAP CROP LOSSES AND CHANGES**

If you have a NAP policy on non-insurable crops, including grazing, which are disaster-affected, a CCC-576 Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 days of the disaster or 15 days after the loss becomes apparent. If you will be changing the intended use of the crop (haying instead of harvesting as grain; or grazing instead of haying or harvesting, for example) or abandoning the crop (summer fallowing instead of taking a crop to harvest), you must first let FSA know so we can do a crop appraisal. **Failure to promptly notify** FSA of a NAP crop loss or change in intended use **can cause ineligibility** for NAP benefits. F

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New Methods for Loan Repayment

Beginning April 15, FSA began using different system for determining loan repayment rates for non-recourse marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat,

feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

Starting April 15th, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will determine and publish daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, oats, soybeans, barley, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed. At the same time, CCC will begin announcing each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.

The repayment rate for pulse crops (lentils, dry peas, small chickpeas – and starting with the 2009-crop year, large chickpeas), crambe, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, wool, mohair and honey also changed starting on or after April 15th. CCC will determine and publish loan repayment rates once a week based on average market prices during the preceding 30 days. CCC will also announce an alternative repayment rate using current methodology each week. The effective repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the alternative repayment rate. Loan repayment rates for 2008-crop pulse marketing assistance loans will be based on U.S. grade #1.

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Pulse Base Establishment

The 2008 Farm Bill provided producers an option to establish base acres and yields for pulse crops on their 2009 farm. Pulse crops are defined as dry peas, lentils, Kabuli garbanzo beans (large chickpeas), and Desi garbanzo beans (small chickpeas). FSA will use the planting history from 1998-2001 and is in the process of researching pulse crop acreage reported to the Agency during those crop years. The yield will be established at 75% of the county average unless producers elect to update the yield by providing acceptable production evidence for those crop years. Owners and operators of farms with history will receive a letter and summary of the acreage history in the near future. You will be asked to verify the accuracy of the acreage and be given additional information on the option to update yields.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Donna Hilyard, CED, at 119 N. Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254; phone 406-765-1550 ext. 102; or email at donna.hilyard@mt.usda.gov.

Timely report any farm owner or operator changes, share changes, entity changes, owned and/or leased land changes, etc. Farm payments are dependent on correct farm records! Have you deeded any land to a trust for estate planning purposes? If so, you need to notify us, because we have to carry the trust as the landowner. It is also important that any change in the producer's bank account, such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly if you receive payments via direct deposit.

ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) Signup is supposed to start April 27 and run through August 14, 2009. Detailed ACRE information has been posted on the Montana FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov/mt (click on "2008 Farm Bill" under the Hot Links section on the right side), including a Fact Sheet, ACRE background information, 2009 State Benchmark yields, and preliminary price guarantees. Many State extension and producer groups have also created decision tools to assist producers in evaluating whether ACRE is an option for your operation. Producers may do an Internet search to find some of the decision tools. ACRE decision tools may be found at the following sites. FSA does not endorse any specific site.

www.montana.edu/softwaredownloads/

www.mgga.org/FarmPolicy/farmpolicy.html

www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/farmmgmt/docs/ACRE_Analyzer.xls

www.card.iastate.edu/ag_risk_tools/acre/

www.fapri.missouri.edu/

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